

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 OIC-04 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /244 W

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TAGS: AORG, GATT, UNCTAD

SUBJ: GATT/UNCTAD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER MEETINGS

REF: STATE 244768

1. MEETING OF ITC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) NOW SET FOR JANUARY 7-11 AND 15-18 RESPECTIVELY.

2. GATT AIRGRAM UNNUMBERED OF DECEMBER 7 AND AIRGRAM 7 OF DECEMBER 10 OUTLINING AGENDA MAILED R. SMITH, COMMERCE AND WILLIAMS, OT/GCP, STATE. BASIC DOCUMENT FOR JAG IS ITC/AG(VIII)/32, DECEMBER 7, COPIES ALSO MAILED SMITH, WILLIAMS. AS MENTIONED PAGE 2 THAT DOCUMENT, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST ARE ITC/AG(VIII)XEE THROUGH 36 AND L/1. NUMBERS 34 AND 35 SENT NORMAL WASHINGTON DISTRIBUTION PREVIOUSLY. NUMBER 33 MAILED DECEMBER 17. NUMBERS 36 AND L/1 NOT YET ISSUED; WILL BE FORWARDED AS RECEIVED.

2. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS. JAG CHAIRMAN MOEREL MET ON DEC 20 WITH ITC LIAISON OFFICERS OF KEY COUNTRIES TO EXPLAIN
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PROPOSALS HE INTENDS MAKE AT JAN MEETINGS. HE WILL SUGGEST

FUTURE TECHCOMS MEET EVERY OTHER YEAR FOR FIVE-DAY SESSIONS. JAG WOULD MEET YEARLY, FOR THREE DAYS IN YEARS WHEN TECHCOM MEETS AND FOUR DAYS ON OTHER YEARS. MISSION OFFICER (SPRUCE) STATED U.S. FAVORED YEARLY MEETINGS OF TECHCOM, WHICH ALSO INCLINATION OF BRAZIL, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND. EC NOT REPRESENTED AT MEETING, BUT MOEREL SAID HE AHD THEIR TENTATIVE AGREE-
MENT TO HIS SUGGESTIONS AS WELL AS AGREEMENT OF ITC AND UNCTAD SECRETARIATS. GATT SECRETARIAT ONLY SAID ITS REACTION WOULD BE THAT OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. MOEREL SAID HIS PROPOSAL WAS EFFORT TO MEET PAST CONCERNS OF U.S., WHICH HAD COMPLAINED OF COST OF MEETINGS. MISSION OFFICER REITERATED U.S. DESIRE FOR YEARLY MEETINGS OF TECHCOM AND PROMISED BRING APPARENT U.S. CONTRADICTION BETWEEN COSTS AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS TO WASHINGTON ATTENTION FOR DECISION. MOEREL BELIEVED ALTERNATE-
YEAR MEETINGS OF TECHCOM WOULD CAUSE NO COORDINATION PROBLEMS, AS ITC PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIME HAS AVERAGED 21 MONTHS. NOTE: MISSION HAS IN PAST FOUND TECHCOM IMPORTANT TO MAINTENANCE U.S. INFLUENCE IN ITC MATTERS AND FAVORS YEARLY MEETINGS. HOWEVER, THIS ISSUE MAY BE AFFECTED BY OUTCOME OF FOLLOWING QUESTION.

3. FUTURE MEMBERSHIP OF TECHCOM. MOEREL SAID GATT, UNCTAD, AND ITC SECRETARIATS OPPOSE INCREASING SIZE OF TECHCOM BEYOND PRESENT 18 (19 WITH CHINA). HE PROPOSES ITC, VIA GATT AND UNCTAD SECRETARIAT APPROVAL OF LIST, INVITE PARTICIPANTS TO TECHCOM ON OWN MERITS AS EXPERTS ON EXPORT PROMOTION, AS TECHCOM IS REALLY FORUM FOR EXPERTS, NOT GENEVA REPS. EXPERTS WOULD COME IN OWN CAPACITY AS SPECIALISTS IN EXPORT PROMOTION AND NOT RPT NOT AS OFFICIAL REP THEIR GOVTS. NOBODY ELSE WOULD ATTEND TECHCOM. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD, AS AT PRESENT, PAY EXPENSES OF THEIR EXPERTS BUT LDCS OR PERHAPS LEAST DEVELOPED LDCS WOULD HAVE THEIR EXPERTS' TRAVEL EXPENSES PAID BY ITC. COST ROUGHLY ESTIMATED AT \$20,000 PER SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION. IN PRACTICE, EXPERTS WOULD NORMALLY BE GOVERNMENTAL EXPORT PROMOTION PEOPLE. ITC WOULD SEE THAT COUNTRIES OF DOMINANT IMPORTANCE WOULD ALWAYS HAVE EXPERT INVITED. IF THIS PROPOSAL NOT ACCEPTED, EXPANSION OF TECHCOM TO 24 OR MORE COUNTRIES WITH TWO OR THREE-MAN DELEGATIONS SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE, ACCORDING MOEREL, AND THIS CONSIDERATION WAS MAIN MOTIVATION OF PROPOSAL.

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4. CHAIRMAN OF TECHCOM AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF JAG. DUE WITHDRAWAL OF PREVIOUS TECHCOM CHAIRMAN FROM ITC DUTIES IN HIS MISSION, TECHCOM WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE OWN CHAIRMAN THIS YEAR. ALSO MOEREL SAID HIS OWN INACTIVITY DURING ILLNESS THIS PAST YEAR POINTS UP NEED TO HAVE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF JAG. HE PLANS SUGGEST ARMOND FRAZAO OF BRAZIL. NOTE: WHILE FRAZAO IS RELATIVELY JUNIOR (SECOND SECRETARY AT BRAZIL MISSION, GENEVA), HE IS

EXPERIENCED IN ITC MATTERS AND HAS ADVANTAGE OF TIME AVAIL-
ABILITY: HE IS ONLY FULL-TIME ITC LIAISON OFFICER IN GENEVA.
SINCE CHAIRMAN IS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY (NETHERLANDS),
THERE IS SOME LOGIC FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN FROM LDC. FRAZAO AND
HIS COUNTRY'S VIEWS ON ITC OFTEN COINCIDE WITH OUR OWN. WE
HAVE HEARD NO SUGGESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN OF TECHCOM.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN CONTINUING ASSURANCE THAT "COUNTRIES OF
DOMINANT IMPORTANCE" IN ITC MATTERS WOULD ALWAYS BE ABLE
PLACE EXPERT ON TECHCOM, AND CONSIDERING THAT EXPERTS, WHILE
NOT ACTING IN CAPACITY AS GOVERNMENTAL REP, WOULD IN PRACTICE
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